

# DWIGHT'S AMERICAN MAGAZINE,

AND

## FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

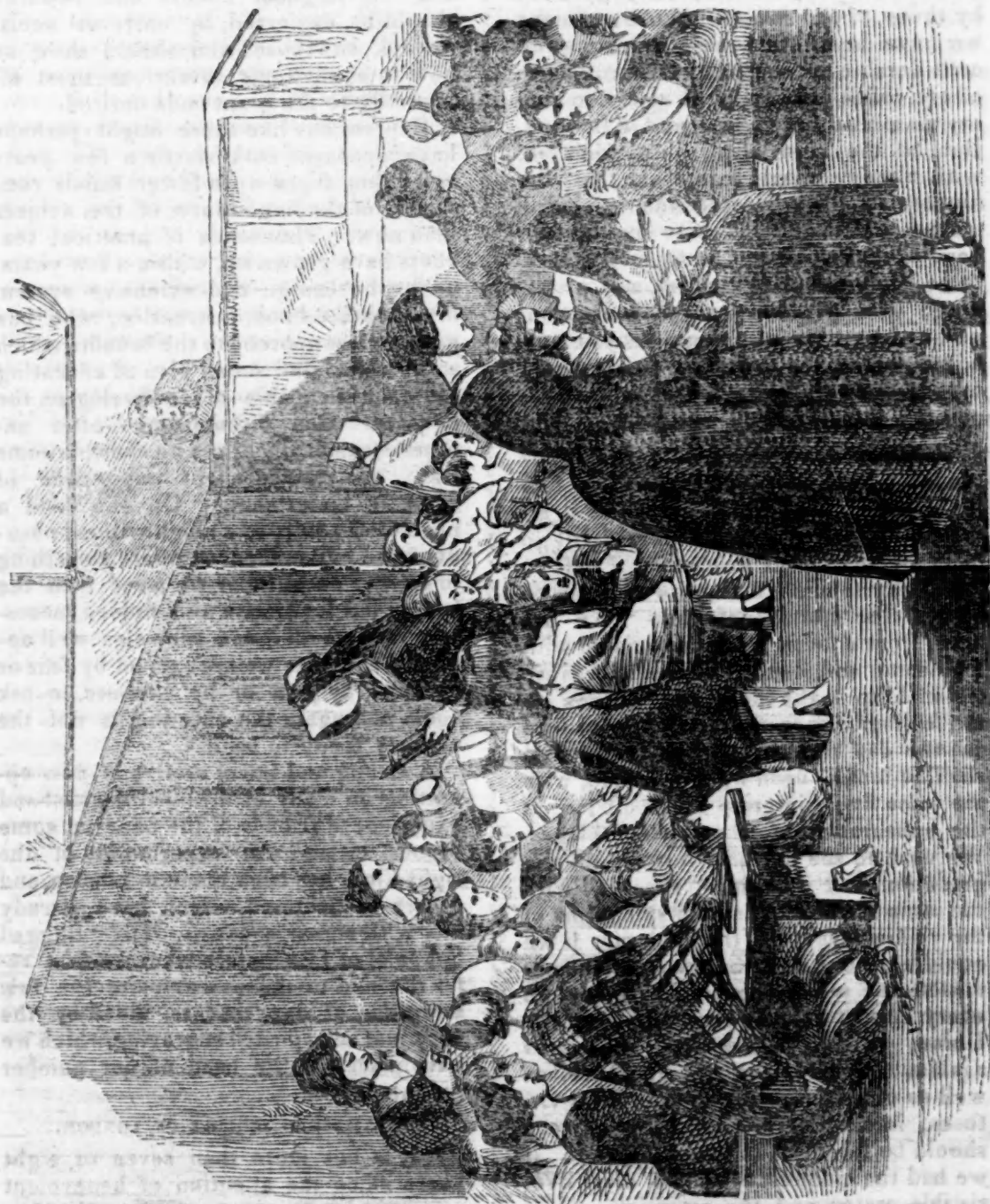
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THE GIRL'S RAGGED SCHOOL IN LONDON.

Every sabbath-school teacher, at least every one who has practised his noble profession in one of our poor city schools, will recognise in this picture a familiar scene. We do not intend to say, that many of our American sabbath-schools are filled with children of so degraded an aspect, such extreme poverty and destitution, as are shown in the assemblage. On the contrary, it is generally allowed, by those of our friends whose opinions we have heard, that we have as yet no considerable numbers of children in any of our cities, who are sunk so low in misery as multitudes to be found in London. But, at the same time, it is admitted, with almost equal readiness, that the number of the neglected and misled is increasing, and that there is extreme need of immediate and active exertions, to be undertaken in earnest, and prosecuted with perseverance, in some manner, and by some means not yet attempted, to secure the country from some of the greatest dangers to which it is exposed.

Vices are in active operation, and their tendency is to degrade character, just so far as they prevail; and every mind affected by their poisonous breath will go on in a course of deterioration, if left to itself, all the while doing its own part to spread the horrid infection. We use here, from choice, terms associated with loathsome and deadly diseases, because we wish to make deep impressions on the feelings of our readers. We wish to see the day dawning, when moral evil shall be looked upon by good men, with the same lively interest which all feel at the appearance of a spreading plague. We wish to see not only crime, but degradation and ignorance, regarded with the same seriousness as the symptoms of the yellow fever, and the cholera. If we could have our will, there would be committees of safety appointed to-day, in every city, town and even village in the Union, to take immediate measures against the extension of ignorance, as well as of immorality; and the most virtuous, intelligent and wealthy citizens should be foremost in the enterprise. If we had the eloquence of the most irresistible orator, and the attention of the whole nation, we would make them feel one truth, and in a manner never to be forgotten or slighted: that the personal, as well as the public interest of all would

be most effectually secured by the immediate adoption of judicious measures to secure the intellectual, moral and religious training of the children now on the stage, and to extend similar advantages to as many of the adult population as can be reached. The experience of the most successful philanthropists, at home and abroad, should be called to our aid; and the highest honors and rewards should be conferred, by universal acclamation, on those who should show us how to apply their inventions most effectually to the great ends desired.

Expressions like these might perhaps have appeared enthusiastic a few years ago, when there were fewer minds convinced of the importance of the subject than now. Thousands of practical teachers have grown up, within a few years, under the benign and extensive system of sabbath-school instruction, who can more or less appreciate the benefits which an universal and sound plan of educating the poor is capable of conferring on the country. One circumstance after another occasionally arises, to show, in some light, the transcendent importance of such an undertaking. On one hand a neglected youth, or a neighborhood abandoned to evil influences, offers something to alarm: on another we meet with the happy, but legitimate and indeed necessary effects of good remedies well applied; and thus we are excited by fear or by hope, by pain or by pleasure, to ask again and again the question, is not the country ready to begin?

A strong and novel motive is now operating on many of the most decided and experienced friends of the poor in some of our cities. An experiment of the right kind, has been made in London, and others in Scotland, which have already met with signal success. The 'Ragged Schools' of London are what we first refer to; and to those we invite the first attention of our readers, aided by the very just and spirited engraving, which we have placed at the head of our number for this week.

#### THE RAGGED SCHOOLS OF LONDON.

"It is not more than seven or eight years since the attention of benevolent people in London was called to the forlorn condition of thousands of youth, of both sexes, who, not only in stature, but in wickedness, had grown beyond the reach of common sunday-schools, and



many of whom had become already notorious for crime. There were parts of the city and suburbs of London, in which crowds of these miserable creatures were found. These were justly called 'breeding places for the hulks and jails, too horrible to contemplate.'

As early as 1839-40, a very destitute district in the vicinity of London was explored, and hundreds of people were found in a state of the most deplorable ignorance and poverty. For their sakes an evening service was opened, and the most destitute were furnished with suitable garments to enable them to attend. The effort was frustrated by the abusive and violent conduct of vicious youth, who pelted the people and their teachers, as well as the building where they were, with stones and other missiles. It was then thought best to attempt to bring these youth under some good influences. They were already far advanced in criminal courses. As an evidence of this, it is stated that in one of the earliest schools, when the class-book was called over, the following were among the replies recorded: John Brown: "Gone to Tothill-fields" [a House of Correction.] James Smith: "Please, sir, he's been to Bow street" [police office,] "and has got a week on the mill," [the tread mill.] George Tompkins: "He's in Newgate, [the chief London prison,] sir." Henry Cole: "Please, sir, he was caught last night, but he'll soon be out."

The evening service being exchanged for an evening school, the scene which the new assembly presented, beggars all description. The teachers could secure no order, and the intervals of silence within the school, were disturbed by the showers of missiles on the roof of the building, by those who were without.

To preserve the public peace, it was necessary to have the police in attendance. Occasionally, indeed, there was a cessation of noise from screams, cat-calls, whistles, falling forms, and other strange sounds, but the moment there was an attempt to sing a hymn, many would begin a profane and often indecent song, and all attempt at worship failed.

Not discouraged by these difficulties, the promoters of the school called for aid; and several warm-hearted, self-denying friends came into the midst of this mob-like company, and thus by dividing the labour, and assigning a small number

to the care of each, they seemed to be reduced to some kind of order. Not a session of the school passed however, without some outbreaking of violent rudeness and insult. As illustrative of these proceedings, it may be mentioned that in the midst of the exercises, a boy took out of his pockets a live mouse, with a string made fast to its tail. It was allowed to run away as far as it could, when a general hunt took place. The confusion can easily be conceived. On another occasion much alarm was created, by a lighted cracker being thrown on the floor. After one of the teachers had trimmed one of the lamps, the oil-can was taken away. On taking his hat to leave the school, he found the contents of the oil can had been deposited in it, to his no small annoyance.

As a specimen of the class of pupils for whose good these trials and insults were endured, we have room but for the following:

A lad was asked his name, which he gave. "Where do you live?" inquired the teacher. There was no answer, but the boy turned his face away. A little fellow in the same class remarked, "Please, sir, he don't lived nowhere!" "Indeed! how is that?" "His father and mother are both dead, and he has had no one to take care of him for two years: he sleeps under carts or sheds, or wherever he can. He was nearly naked, the upper part of his body being covered with a small piece of brown holland. "He always comes down our street at night," observed a boy, "and I give him a bit of my supper, or he'd have none." "That's true," replied another, "and though he's so poor, he keeps himself clean, for he goes down to the river early in the morning, and well washes himself."

Of the girl's school we have statements showing the urgent necessity of similar provisions for them. [Of this school we have an interesting view in our print.]

[To be Continued.]

Restorations disappoint the loyal. If princes at such times, have much to give, they have also much to gain; and policy dictates the necessity of bestowing rather to conciliate enemies, than to reward friends.—LACON.

**Bahia, in Brazil.***Concluded from page 179.*

"Notwithstanding the severe trial to the olfactories of some thousands of people, which is sure to result from the capture of a whale, yet such an event is a general occasion of triumph at Bahia. Hundreds of people, the colored especially, throng around to witness the monster's dying struggles, and to procure portions of his flesh, which they cook and eat. Vast quantities of this flesh are cooked in the streets, and sold by Quitandeiras. Numbers of swine also feast upon the carcass of the whale; and all who are not specially discriminating in their selection of pork in the market, during the season of these fisheries, are liable to get a taste of the whale, 'nolens volens.' This whale-fishery was once the greatest in the world. At the close of the seventeenth century, it was rented by the crown for thirty thousand dollars annually. The American whalers occasionally take whales off this coast, but in general they find other cruising grounds more profitable.

"From the beach, we ascended a winding path to the Victoria hill, passing by the English cemetery, which, although small, is delightfully located. The house in which Mr. P. resided was small, but tastefully arranged, with an ample garden in front. Adjoining it, had recently been constructed an addition, which served as a chapel. This room was so arranged as to seat, comfortably, eighty or a hundred persons. The usual number in attendance would average sixty, about half the number of English residents. After our excursion, Mr. Parker accompanied me to dine with Mr. Whately, acting British consul; and thus my first day's visit to Bahia passed away in the most agreeable manner.

"The evening and night I spent with Mr. Foster, acting American consul, at whose house I was kindly invited to make my home. The next morning that gentleman conducted me through the principal parts of the city, which I had not already seen. The almost entire absence of horses and mules in the streets, did not soon cease to appear singular. An unusual number of goats and pigs, was hardly sufficient to supply the lack of the aforementioned animals.

"We entered the chapel of the convents of San Bento and S. Francisco.

The former is barren of ornament; the latter extravagantly profuse. The chapel of the Misericordia was dressed out with hangings and ornaments, in anticipation of some festa. The old cathedral, an immense edifice, which had been constructed with great expense, was found in quite an indifferent state of repair. In a wing of this building, from which may be enjoyed a very commanding view of the harbor, is the public library. The regulations of this institution are similar to those of the national library at Rio. It contains about ten thousand volumes, a large portion of which are in French. Some valuable manuscripts are also in preservation here. In this immediate neighborhood, are the archiepiscopal palace and seminary, and the old Jesuit college, now used as a military hospital. The latter building, together with the church of Nossa Senhora da Conceicao on the Praia, may also be said to have been built in Europe; at least the principal stone work for them was cut, fitted, and numbered, on the other side of the Atlantic, and imported ready for immediate erection. The president's palace is also but a short distance from this locality. It is a substantial building, of ancient date, located upon one side of an open square.

"Although I intend to introduce, in this connection, some account of my second visit and longer sojourn in Bahia, yet I apprehend the reader will be pleased with a brief sketch of the history of the city, antecedent to further observations. In preparing this sketch I shall, in addition to facts given by Mr. Southey, avail myself of the labors of Senhor Ignacio Accioli de Cerqueira e Silva, whose work, entitled *Memorias Historicas e Politicas da Provincia da Bahia*, in four volumes, lies before me.

"The writer has devoted several years to the minute investigation of the history of his native city and province, and has detailed the results at great length, and doubtless with accuracy."

[The following is a mere outline of the sketch given by Mr. Kidder.]

"Bahia de todas os Santos, the Bay of All Saints, was discovered in 1503 by Americus Vespucius, who was then voyaging under the patronage of the king of Portugal, Don Manoel. Vespucius carried home from the coast of Santa Cruz, as the newly-discovered country was first



called by the Portuguese, a cargo of 'ibiritanga,' a scarlet dye-wood, which, when cut in pieces, resembled 'brazas,' coals of fire. From this circumstance it by degrees acquired the name of Brazil wood. This valuable commodity was destined to furnish a name to the country, substituting its original appellation as effectually as did America the name of Columbus.

"In 1510, a vessel under the command of Diogo Alvares Correa, was wrecked near the entrance of this bay. The Tupinambas, a ferocious tribe of Indians inhabiting the coast, fell upon and destroyed all who survived this shipwreck, save the captain of the vessel. The Indians spared Diogo, as some supposed, on account of his activity in assisting them to save articles from the wreck. At any rate he had the good fortune to recover a musket, and some barrels of powder and ball. With these he took occasion to shoot a bird in their presence. Terrified with the explosion no less than with its effects, the Indians called him from that moment 'Caramurú,' 'the man of fire.'

"His next step was to conciliate their favor by assuring them, that although he was a terror to his enemies, he could be a valuable auxiliary to his friends. He accordingly accompanied the Tupinambas on an expedition against a neighboring tribe with whom they were at war. The first discharge of Caramurú's musket gained him possession of the field, his frightened adversaries scampering for their lives.

"Little more was necessary to secure him a perfect supremacy among the aboriginals. As a proof of this, he was soon complimented with proposals from various chiefs, who offered him their daughters in marriage. Diogo made choice of Paraguassú, daughter of the head chief Itaparica, whose name is perpetuated as the designation of the large island in front of the city; while that of Paraguassú, the bride, is applied to one of the rivers emptying into the bay. He now began a settlement, which he denominated S. Salvador, in gratitude for his escape from the shipwreck. This settlement was located in a place denominated Graga, on the Victoria hill, a suburb of the city which will be hereafter described, and which is still occasionally called 'Villa Velha,' old town.

"After the lapse of some years, a ship from Normandy anchored in front of Caramurú's town, and opened communications with the shore. Diogo now conceived the idea of returning to Europe; and after having supplied the vessel with a cargo, he embarked for Dieppe, accompanied by Paraguassú. He intended if he arrived safely, to go from Dieppe to Lisbon. The French, however, would not permit this, but preferred to make him a lion in their own capital. Paraguassú was the first Indian female that had ever appeared in Paris. A splendid fête was given at her baptism, when she was christened Catharine Alvares, after Catherine de Medicis, queen of France. King Henry II., accompanying his royal spouse, officiated on the occasion as godfather and sponsor.

The French government contracted with Caramuru to send out vessels which should carry him to his adopted country, and return with Brazil wood and other articles, which should be given in exchange for goods and trinkets. In the meantime this individual, true to his original intent, contrived to inform Don John III., of Portugal, of the importance of colonizing Bahia. A young Portuguese, who had just finished his studies in Paris, and was returning to Portugal, was the bearer of this message. The name of the young man in question was Pedro Fernandez Sardinha, afterwards bishop of Bahia.

"The natives rejoiced at Caramuru's return, and his colony now increased rapidly, and extended its influences in every direction. In 1534, the chaplains of Martin Affonso de Souza, who touched at Bahia, probably on a return voyage from S. Vicente, baptized the children of Caramuru. On the same occasion two of his daughters were married, one to Alfonzo Roderiguez, and the other to Paulo Aderno, a Genoese. Of the former, there still may be seen an epitaph in the Victoria church, stating the circumstance of his marriage, and that he died about thirty years afterward.

"At this period the king of Portugal, in order to secure the settlement of Brazil, divided the country into twelve captaincies, each of fifty leagues extent on the coast, and boundless towards the interior. Each captaincy was conceded to a donatary, whose power and authority were absolute." [To be Concluded.]

**Common Schools in New York.**

On the 1st of July, 1846, there were in the state 941 towns and wards, and the number of common schools 11,003. No reports have been received from 275 of these schools. Private schools have decreased during the year 250. The aggregate of common and private schools amounted on the 1st of July to 12,738—a decrease of 261 during the year. During the year ending 21st December, 1845, the number of children in the state exclusive of the city of New York, between 5 and 16 years of age, was increased 4,485, presenting an aggregate of 625,399; and it is computed that the number in this city amounts to 88,000. By this estimate, the increase of children is computed to be 12,485.

During the year, about one-fourth of the entire population of the state—to wit, 742,433 children—were under instruction some portion of the time, either in the elementary or advanced stages of an English education, or in classical studies in the incorporated academies and high schools throughout the state.

The average number of pupils in attendance at the 'unincorporated, select and private schools,' during the year, 1845, was 31,240, in all the counties of the state, except the city of New York, from which none have been reported the present year, although 20,000 were returned for 1841, when the aggregate of this attendance amounted to 56,058.

The following abstract presents the aggregate of the whole 'number of children taught during the year' 1845, with the average number of pupils in attendance at the 'unincorporated, select and private schools' and 'the students' attending the 'incorporated academies,' reported by the Regents of the University, in 1846.

Whole number of children taught in the common schools some portion of the year,	742,433
Whole number of pupils attending the private schools, reported by trustees,	31,240
Whole number of same attending in the city of New York, taken from the census returns,	8,354
Whole number of students attending the 'incorporated academies,' not allowed by the Regents 'to be classical scholars or students in the higher	

branches of English education,' 11,692

Whole number attending same, allowed as classical scholars or students, 13,481

807,200

The aggregate population of the State, on the 1st of July, 1845, was 2,604,495; and from the foregoing, is deduced the remarkable statistical fact that nearly one, in every three and one-fourth of the whole population, or four of every thirteen were under instruction, some part of the year, in the elementary and more advanced branches of English education, and in the classical departments of the academies.—*Sec. Report.*

**A Discovery.**

About two miles from this village, on land known as the "Kerr tract," there is an ancient Mound, circular at the base—about 39 feet in diameter, rising ovally to a point, which is surmounted by an oak-stump, probably originally 2 feet in diameter, which is almost totally decayed from age. A few days since, some boys dug into the Mound, and nearly under the stump, at the depth of three feet, a skeleton was found, much decayed, but portions of it in a fair degree of preservation. Near the head were found two stone hatchets, an arrow head, a stone pipe, and far more singular—a lot of plates, apparently 'isingglass,' which are covered with lines and hieroglyphics of different and beautiful colors. The colors and workmanship betoken a more advanced and entirely different state of the arts than has been heretofore discovered in the remains of Indian tribes. Some of the plates were destroyed, but there are fifteen preserved. They are a circular oval in shape, and about 7 inches by 10 in size. A pipe bowl, beautifully finished from stone, was also found. The bowl which is nearly round rises from a base, on the bottom of which are the figures '1461.' Measures are now taking under the supervision of some of our most intelligent citizens, further to explore this singular Mound. There is little doubt but that these plates contain the history of some former race that has inhabited this country, and we shall await further discoveries with great curiosity.—*Sandusky Democrat.*



**Discoveries in Florence.**

The Westminster Review for January, has a letter from its correspondent in Florence, announcing the discovery of a splendid picture by Michael Angelo and the fragment of a poem by Ariosto. These discoveries, added to those recent ones which have given to the public the long lost Ephemerides of Galileo, and the magnificent fresco, which, if not the work of Raphael, might well have been his, are events of no small moment in the artistical and antique-loving city of Florence.

The sensation produced by the appearance of the picture was lively and universal. We take the following description of it from the Westminster's correspondence:

It is an easel picture, composed of one single figure, half life size. The subject is Fortune seated on her wheel. Among the lumber of an old picture dealer's shop, Signor Botti, an intelligent artist and admirably conscientious restorer of pictures, found in two halves an utterly obscured and blacked picture, which some indications, visible only to such practised eyes, induced him to purchase for the sum of five livres—about three shillings. His first operations upon it disclosed that which made his heart beat, and warned him to proceed with the utmost care and most minute diligence. It soon appeared that the injuries of time were not the worst from which the eclipsed painting had suffered. Some ignorant and barbarous botcher had dared to paint a heavy white cloth over the lower half of the figure; and this had to be skilfully and gradually removed. We can sympathize with the feelings of the fortunate possessor, as layer after layer of paint and dirt was removed—the true tints and genuine lines were restored to view—and an unquestionable work of Michael Angelo's stood forth revealed upon the canvass. The restoration has been accomplished most successfully; and the picture is seen as perfect in its most delicate half-tints, and as pure from 'doctoring' as when it left the artist's studio.

From the strongly marked characteristics of Michael Angelo's style his works are considered recognisable with more certainty than those of any other of the great masters. The correspondent above quoted says that no dissenting voice has raised a doubt as to Signor Bot-

ti's picture being the work of that master.

The fragment of Ariosto, recently discovered, is part of a poem entitled 'Rinaldo Ardito,' or Rinaldo the Bold, and consists of five cantos. None of Ariosto's biographers have mentioned the existence of this poem except one, who was it seems, such a noted liar that nobody believed his statement. The fragment, decyphered with great care and equipped with preface and notes, has been published.

**Leverrier's Planet.**

Professor Pierce, of Harvard University, has communicated to the Boston Courier, an account of 'the verification, by the telescope, of the great discovery by Leverrier of a planet, outside of Uranus, obtained of 'Encke' by Mr. B. A. Gould, Jr., who is now pursuing his scientific studies at Berlin. Mr. Gould states that he often saw Leverrier at Paris, and that he does not appear to be more than thirty years old. The attention of the young astronomer was turned to the subject in consequence of 'the non-agreement of the predicted and observed motions of Uranus;' and during the past year he has definitely obtained the position of a hitherto unknown planet, whose influence has caused the difference. 'The star is of the eighth magnitude, and even a disc seems to be perceptible; but the discovery was only rendered possible by the precision of the map employed during the search. For sometime to come it may be observed upon the meridian. The character of the discovery (continues Mr. Encke) 'resulting from purely theoretical investigations, insures to Leverrier the most brilliant rank among all the discoverers of planets. This planet, he also says, 'is probably about twice the distance of Uranus from the Sun.'

A telegraphic despatch in the U. S. Gazette from Sears C. Walker, states that Leverrier's planet was seen on Friday night at the Washington Observatory. At a previous observation on Wednesday evening, it is certain that a star of the eighth magnitude was seen, which is not in the excellent map referred to by Encke, and which is in the very place in which the planet should be found. Its right ascension at 9 o'clock was 21h. 51m. and 33s., and its declination was 13 deg. 32 sec.—*N. Y. Express.*



THE TAILOR-BIRD, OR ICTERUS BONANA.

We may be inclined to doubt the possibility of a bird's fabricating a nest like this, even while we have before our own eyes the ingenuity, of our yellow bird and fire bird, or Baltimore Oriole. Of the latter we have before given some account, with a description of its nest, accompanied with a drawing, (See vol. I. page 86.) The Capocier, of South Africa, (see vol. I. page 36), shows an interesting specimen of the "felt-makers," or birds which construct their nests of matting. The young birds represented above, in their curious little habitation, present a sight which it is not easy to look upon with full credit. There is respectable authority for the account, but it seems as if some fancy had been indulged. The drawing is copied from one given by Latham; and it is said that specimens of the nest are now preserved in some collections. Our doubts are raised by the regularity of the sewing or stitching, by which the dead leaf is represented as attached to the living one. We do not readily yield credence to the assertion, that an animal, even so ingenious as a little bird, can perform an operation of this nature, with such uniformity, and requiring, in the human species, the co-operation of both hands, with the use of that complex instrument the needle. Such an operation seems, in fact, to be a

more complicated one than any we see them perform, and quite beyond the reach of their powers, with the apparatus they possess.

We copy the following remarks from a late anonymous writer :

"According to Buffon and Latham, the bonana starling, (*Icterus bonana*), is another of the tailors. It inhabits Martinico, Jamaica, and other West India islands, and builds a nest of a very curious construction, if it can justly be called building. The materials which it uses are fibres and leaves, which it shapes into the fourth part of a globe, and sews the whole with great art to the under part of a bonana leaf, so that the leaf makes one side of the nest.

But the most celebrated bird of this division is the one which in the East is, 'par excellence,' named the tailor-bird, (*Sylvia sutoria*, LATH.), the description of whose performances we would be apt to suspect for an Oriental fiction if we had not a number of the actual specimens to prove their rigid authenticity. We do yet suspect, however, that these very specimens have misled European naturalists a step beyond the truth in their accounts of its proceedings. "The tailor-bird," says Darwin, "will not trust its nest to the extremity of a tender twig, but fixes it to the leaf itself."





THE ALPACA.

This is one of the animals concerning which most curiosity is felt at the present time, and most pains are taken, to ascertain its natural history. The enquiries making are for practical purposes; for the animal bears a very valuable fleece, applicable to a variety of branches of manufacture, and, in its natural state, inhabits a region of the most inhospitable description in the Andes, subsisting on the poorest and cheapest food, and therefore, if capable of enduring a change of country, without deterioration, may become an invaluable acquisition to any manufacturing nation.

Many of our readers must be familiar with some of the fabrics made of the hair of the Alpaca, as they are known by the name of the animal; and some of them may remember notices of it which we have occasionally given in preceding numbers. Observations and experiments made in Scotland, on a few introduced into that country sometime ago, have been published. An attempt was made by the Agricultural Society of this city, a few months ago, to procure a few animals of this species, with the express intention of extending the breed for the benefit of our manufactures and commerce. So patriotic a measure, encouraged by the liberal contributions of Mr. Pell and a few other individuals, has unhappily failed, through untoward circumstances: but it is not too late for another experiment, and it is to be hoped it may be made.

Respecting the animals imported into England, we have the following information, communicated in the remarks made at the meeting of the British Association last season, by Mr. W. Dawson, by whose liberality and public spirit the animals were taken to that country.

"It is now six years since I first joined this society, for a little recreation or relaxation from the trials of thirty years close application to commercial life; and at Birmingham I brought a subject before its notice, which received its countenance in a special manner. I there declared the object of that paper, which was to induce our various manufacturers to exercise their ingenuity in discovering means to consume a wool of a silken texture (as can be seen retailing) in a manufactured state, and also to prepare our landed gentry and farmers to naturalize the animal called the 'Alpaca,'—a species of sheep that eat what the cow, the horse, the common sheep, &c., reject. The manufacturers have succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectation, and the naturalization also: the former has created a national wealth of £3,000,000 to £5,000,000 per annum; the latter is progressing rapidly. I have proved these mountain-rangers can be domiciled in our own country, though brought from beyond the Andes Mountains in Peru. [How much more easily then would they do this in the United States—a climate similar to our own!] I have tried the experiment in my own lands, on the west

coast of Ireland, in the wildest districts of the county of Kerry; and already a company is on the tapis to bring over ten thousand of those animals for the national good. As the race is nearly extinct in Peru, it is desirable to bring them to our isles; their wool approaching silk, and their flesh being improved by English air and pasture. 'Our Sovereign and Prince Albert' are now wearing royal robes manufactured from the wool of these animals, bred in the Royal Park, at Windsor. 'In ten years these animals will add £20,000,000 per annum to the national wealth!'

#### Buffalo Robes.

In the report made during the last session of Congress, by Capt. J. C. Fremont, of the exploring expedition to Oregon and North California, during the years 1843 and 1844, we have some very interesting facts relating to the amount of buffalo robes, which is collected by the western fur trade, and which constitutes an important branch of that enterprise. We are informed by Mr. Sanford, a partner in the American Fur Company, who has been for many years familiar with the region inhabited by the buffalo, that the annual amount of robes traded by the company, is nearly as follows:

American Fur Company,	70,000
Hudson's Bay Company,	10,000
All other companies, probably	10,000

Making a total of robes, 90,000 as an annual average return for the last eight or ten years. In the North-west, the Hudson's Bay Company purchase from the Indians but a very small number—their sole market being Canada, to which the cost of transportations nearly equals the produce of the furs, and it is only within a very recent period that they have received buffalo robes in trade; and out of the great number of buffaloes annually killed, throughout the extensive region inhabited by the Camanches and other kindred tribes, no robes whatever are furnished for trade. During only four months of the year, from November to March, the skins are good for dressing, those obtained during the remaining eight months being valueless to traders, and the hides of bulls are never taken off or dressed as robes at any season. Probably not more than one-third of the skins are taken from the animals

killed, even when they are in season, the labor of preparing and dressing the robes being very great, and it is seldom that a lodge trades more than twenty skins a year. It is during the summer months, and in the early part of autumn that the greatest number of buffaloes is killed, and yet at this time, a skin is never taken for the purpose of trade. [*Hunt's Mag.*]

**IMPORTANT IF TRUE.**—The Liverpool Albion gives a glowing account of a recent invention by an English naval officer, for traversing the surface of the water. The writer supposes, that, furnished with this newly invented apparatus, which appears to be a sort of dress, a man may board a ship in the river, or elsewhere, with little trouble, however high the waves or wind, and though the ship should be under full headway. It is suggested, that it will be an invaluable arrangement for the newspaper offices, which, by the use of this invention may obtain their foreign files and all news, with very little trouble or expense, when the ships is detained off port. We know not why the thing should be regarded as incredible; yet we confess our lack of faith in the invention.

**CHINA.**—Mrs. Shuck, the wife of an American Missionary in China.—After acknowledging the arrival of some books and infant school cards, which were sent to her by the Society, and begging for another supply, she says:—"A few days ago as I was standing on the water's edge, waiting to take an excursion in a boat then coming for me, a crowd of Chinese gathered around me, asking a variety of questions. After satisfying their inquiries, I turned to a little girl who seemed more active and sprightly than her companions, and asked if she would not like to come and live with me, that she might be taught to read. She replied with great astonishment—"Why, I am a 'girl;' a 'girl read?' said she. I tried in vain to convince her, and those standing around, that it was proper for 'females' as well as males, to receive instruction. I have seen the little girl several times since, and her salutation has been every time, "Read, ha! a girl read!!!" I humbly trust, however, that the time is not far distant when this state of things shall change; when China's injured daughters shall be raised.



**China.**

I walked three miles or more down the bank of the Ningpo river, which, on the north-east side of the city, makes a remarkable bend, almost enclosing the ground on which the English consulate stands. A canal half a mile long would save six or seven miles sailing. There are vast numbers of graves on this part of the Ningpo plain, though perhaps not more than may be found in any other direction. They occupy many acres of fertile soil, and cause one to doubt the truth of the remark so often made, that 'the Chinese seldom bury their dead except on the sides of barren hills.' This remark was generally found to be true in the province of Canton, and in some parts of Fuhkeen, but it is far from being correct in those of Keangsoo and Chehkeang. About Shanghai the number of tumuli, or mounds, enclosing coffins, is so great, that in some places they remind one of haystacks in a newly-mown meadow, while about Ningpo there are thousands of acres thus occupied. In the hills about Ningpo, (none of which are within ten miles of the city), there are comparatively few tombs.

Went through two long, straggling villages, and was beset by a parcel of boys, 'just out of school,' with their books, papers, and satchels in their hands. I began to give them some of the tracts, and the others seeing that books were to be had for the asking, made the most pressing applications. "I say, give me a book! give me a book! I can read!" and my pockets were emptied before the demand was supplied. One little fellow, much disappointed, took my hand, and followed me for some time, begging for a book, and was hardly satisfied with the promise of one on my next visit. It must not be supposed that this eagerness for our books arises from any appreciation of their value. A tract on any other subject in the world would be just as eagerly taken.

Nov. 22. The early part of this month was the season for the harvest of the second crop of rice, and the farmers have now nearly finished threshing it. The cotton is also gathered in, and the wheat is in many places coming up, having been planted early in the month. They do not sow it broadcast, but having first prepared the ground in long beds, they drill holes at regular intervals, with a heavy,

sharp-pointed stone, and drop five or six grains in each hole.

Nov. 26. Saw a wedding procession, which must have been several hundred yards long, and numbered several hundreds of people. A crowd of men and boys bearing banners and inscriptions, went in front, some trumpets and cymbals followed, then seven or eight men horseback, then a couple of officers, one bearing a white, and the other a gilt button in their caps; then the bride's chair, a really beautiful article, elegantly painted, carved and gilded, borne by eight men; but the bride was quite too well enclosed to be seen; then several men bearing ornamental bedding-clothes and pillows, which form a part of the marriage presents, and are always ostentatiously displayed; while no less than twenty-one sedan chairs brought up the rear. The lady was said to be the daughter of an officer of rank.—*Miss. Chron.*

**Gun Cotton.**

It differs from xilodine, according to Dr. Jackson, in many respects, and is doubtless a new substance. Professor Schonbein, of Basle, and his associate, M. Bottger, have the credit of the discovery of the first application of this remarkable substance to useful purposes, although the method employed by them for its manufacture has not as yet been made public.

When properly prepared, gun cotton increases at least one half in weight, rapidly burns with a voluminous yellow flame, at a temperature of about 350 deg. F., although it has frequently been known to explode as low as 212 deg. Hence the utmost caution is necessary in its preparation as well as in its use. It burns so much more rapidly than gunpowder, that the latter, when placed in immediate contact, is not inflamed by it, and no inconvenience is felt by burning a flock of it on the naked hand. It detonates with some difficulty when struck with a hammer on an anvil, unless heated to nearly the exploding point. Wetting does not appear to injure it, if it be quickly and carefully dried.

The explosive, or projectile force of gun cotton is much more effective than that of powder. An interesting experiment was made on the 4th of December, in blasting a ledge of rock then excavating for the new canal, in Lowell, Mass.,

under the supervision of Mr. Wm. E. Worthen, the engineer. About 78 1-2 oz. of gun cotton were enclosed in a 'Vulcanized' India-rubber cloth case, five inches in diameter, and three feet long; and then let down by its fuse, into a hole, drilled in the rock, five inches in diameter, and nine and a half feet deep, and afterwards covered with six feet of dry sand. The explosion, it is said, was accompanied with a report not louder than a musket shot, and the mass of rock rent off was estimated to weigh about 350 tons, an effect, it is thought, which would require in gunpowder about 10 lbs.

We have been thus particular in describing the nature of this important substance, both on account of its interesting scientific detail, and the increased demand for cotton which is likely to arise from its use in blasting rocks, and probably for many other purposes.—SEL.

#### Manufacture of Glass.

As the manufacture of pressed glass tumblers may not have been witnessed by many of your readers, I will describe it in a few words. In the first place, they have a brass mould, consisting of a solid mass, about as large over as a half peck measure, containing a hollow in it exactly in the form of the tumbler to be made, with a follower of brass of the same form, but so much smaller as to fit the inside of the tumbler. When the two parts of the mould are put together, the space between them is the exact thickness of the vessel required.

In the process of manufacturing, three men and two boys are required. The first thing done is for one of the men to dip an iron rod in the melted glass and move it about until he has a sufficient quantity of the fluid mass on the end of his rod; he then holds it over the hollow of the mould, and with a pair of shears, cuts off what he judges to be just enough to constitute the tumbler. Instantly the other man brings down the follower with lever power, and the melted glass is so compressed as to fill the cavity of the mould. He then turns his mould bottom up, with a little blow, and the tumbler drops red hot upon the stone table. One of the boys, with an iron having a little melted glass upon its end, presses it on the bottom of the tumbler, and it slightly adheres. He then holds it in the mouth of a glowing furnace, turning it rapidly,

till it is almost in a melted state, when the third man takes it, and whirling the rod and tumbler on a sort of arm of a chair, he holds a smooth iron tool against the edge of the tumbler till all the roughness is removed from its edges, when a boy takes the rod from him, and by a slight stroke on the end of it, drops the tumbler and places it in a hot oven to cool gradually. These five hands will make a beautiful tumbler in forty seconds, or about one hundred in an hour.—*Chr. Mirror.*

**SAGACITY OF RATS.**—In the year 1774, the surgeon of a man of war observed that the eggs were rapidly decreasing from the sick sea-store, and intimated to his mates that he suspected they took some unwarrantable liberties. The young gentlemen, conscious of innocence, were highly affronted; but the eggs were gone; they alone had access where they lay, and they could only deny the charge. One of them said to the other, it might be possible that the sailors had a false key, and they ought to watch for their detection. They provided themselves with a dark lanthorn, and, well armed, awaited the depredators. Soon after midnight, a great movement near the cask where the eggs were packed induced them cautiously to turn the lanthorn. They beheld a vast number of rats climbing up, and kept very still to observe the issue. In a short time, they saw the party of rats return, each with an egg under his chin. The next day they informed the surgeon; he had the remaining eggs taken from the cask, and placed in a smaller dish, supported by a table, the feet of which receded so far that the rats could not get up. He attended, with the dark lanthorn, saw the invaders ascend the barrel, and come away disappointed. They prowled about a few minutes, before they discovered the eggs. One of the men, employed in their removal, had left a spar leaning against the table, which was soon perceived by the rats, and some got up with alacrity. The surgeon, by a stealthy movement, took away the spar before the whole party effected a lodgment; but they that had obtained possession, clinging together, made a pathway to the ground, and their comrades passed over their backs to the table; nor was it long, before each retreated in the same manner, with an egg un-



der his chin, which he would have carried off, had not the gentlemen interfered.—*R. I. paper.*

### Vera Cruz.

It is generally reported and believed that, should the capture of Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan (an event confidently anticipated by our government) fail to bring the enemy to terms, the next movement will be a march on the city of Mexico. As we are not of the number who believe that the fall of that city and fortress will lead to an immediate peace, we will glance beyond them over the route which our troops will have to travel in order to reach the 'Halls of the Montezumas.' The distance from city to city is 290 miles, and the stages are as follows:

From Vera Cruz to Santa Fe,	9 miles.
Puerto del Rio,	36
Plan del Rio,	18
Encerro,	18
Jalapa,	8
Las Vigas,	18
Perote,	12
Tepeyalco,	21
Ojo de Agua,	18
Nopaluca,	6
La Puebla,	33
S. Martin,	24
Rio Frio,	24
Cordova,	15
Mexico,	30

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With regard to the route we find the following information, compiled from standard authorities, in the Philadelphia Inquirer. It will be read with interest:

The construction of a new road from Vera Cruz to the capital was undertaken by the merchants of the former place, under the auspices of the government, about the year 1804, and carried on for some years at a vast expense. The part of the route that formed the ascent to the table lands, was so constructed as to avoid the steepest places, and to admit the easy passage of carriages up the most formidable heights. Humboldt, who was in Mexico at the time this great work was going on, compared it to the roads over the Siaplon and Mount Cenis. 'It is,' he says, 'broad, solid, and of a very gentle fall.'

The distance from Vera Cruz to Mexico is 290 miles; the first part of the

route, leading through the village of Santa Fe, is low and sandy, over which a 'calzada' or paved causeway was thrown, forming a part of the great road to the capital; but this is now in a ruinous condition, owing in a great measure to the want of repairs, which are rendered necessary by the destructive operation of the mountain torrents during the rainy season. Two fine bridges remain on this part of the route, which communicated with the causeway; one of these, called Puente del Rey, or King's bridge, crosses the river Antigua, fifteen leagues from Vera Cruz, and is admirably built with massive stone arches. The other is thrown over a rapid stream at Plan del Rio, and consists of a single arch of very large dimensions. Plan del Rio is a small village twenty-one leagues from Vera Cruz, where the ascent to the table lands may be said to commence. In the six leagues that intervene between that village and another called Encerro, the traveller attains the height of 3,043 feet above the level of the sea, which is sufficient to give an entirely new character to the climate and productions. A farther ascent of 1,293 feet, within a distance of about eight miles, over a rugged and dangerous road, brings him to Jalapa, or Xalapa, where he enters on a portion of the old paved road, leading through fields of maize and gardens filled with a profusion of flowers. 'Here,' says Humboldt, 'the richest merchants of Vera Cruz have country-houses, in which they enjoy a cool and agreeable retreat, while the coast is almost uninhabitable from the mosquitoes, the great heats, and the yellow fever.'

The next stage after leaving Jalapa, is eighteen miles, to Las Vigas, requiring an ascent of 3,485 feet; but as the old causeway is in a good state of preservation, carriages ascend easily; the horses and mules, however, suffer exceedingly, says Mr. Ward, (the late British envoy at Mexico,) in the steeper parts of the ascent, from the difficulty of getting a good footing on the hard pavement. Here the cold becomes oppressive to the traveller who has left the mild atmosphere of Jalapa, and the burning heats of Vera Cruz; but the inhabitants are so little affected by it that a fire place is a thing unknown in the village of Las Vigas. From this place to the town and castle of Perote, a distance of twelve miles, the

road is very steep and bad. It was once nearly completed in the same magnificent style as the rest of the causeway, but not a vestige now remains of the work. During the first revolution, the ground between Jalapa and Perote was obstinately disputed by the insurgents, who in their attempts to cut off the communication between the capital and the coast, destroyed every part of the road that was not actually in the possession of the royalist forces, which were stationed in considerable numbers at Jalapa. Hence, says Ward, the marks of desolation above and below the town. On reaching Perote, the ascent to the table land is accomplished, at an elevation of about 8000 feet above the level of the sea, and ninety-eight miles from Vera Cruz. The remainder of the route to the capital is chiefly over a level surface, until the traveller arrives at the immediate environs of the city, which is surrounded by hills, enclosing the far famed valley of 'Tenochtitlan,' or Mexico.

## AGRICULTURAL.

### Farming.

#### MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING—DISCUSSION ON FENCES.

The second Legislative Agricultural Meeting of the season was held in Boston at evening—subject for consideration, Fences.

"Mr. Buckminster, editor of the *Ploughman*, said that the subject of fencing was one of much importance to farmers. Stone walls are generally considered the best fences. Stones are in the way, and when they are dug up, they may as well be laid into a wall. In some places, there is a scarcity of stone, in which case, rail fence is the best. The best kinds of wood for posts for rail fence, are cedar, chestnut and locust. Cedar and chestnut will last twenty years, or even longer, on moist, clayey land, but in a dry sandy land he had known them to rot out in four years. In bog meadow they will last very long. The tops of those kinds of posts will last seventy-five years. There is an objection to locust, that the borer attacks it—were it not for that, it would last the longest.

In some places hedges are resorted to for fencing. In England they are very common, but they do not answer so well

here. Indeed, said Mr. Buckminster, I think them a great nuisance. The labor of keeping them trimmed is too expensive for us. As to the cost of the different kind of fences, Mr. Buckminster said that he had built good stone wall at an expense of twenty-five cents per rod, and rail fence could be built for sixty cents per rod. Stone walls are good protection against all kinds of cattle except sheep, which animals he has known to jump a four foot wall, with two poles on the top. Some farmers will not let a sheep jump even over a low rail, for fear they will contract a habit of jumping fences.

Apple trees are probably as good as any thing for fences. Set the trees six or ten feet apart, and fasten rails to them; some insert the rails in the trees. A ditch fence answers very well in some cases. The ditch should be about four feet wide. In making rail fence, the posts should be set well in the ground, and the fences should be made straight in order to save material. There is a difference of opinion whether a balance single wall, or a double wall makes the best fence. Mr. Buckminster thought that a double wall, which would cost twice as much as a single wall, would not stand so long.

Hon. John Reed of Sandwich, said that in his opinion stone walls are the best fences where stones can be found. He thought it better to split large stones for the purpose of building wall, in preference to moving them whole. He thought a balanced wall better than a faced wall. Ditching is cheap and good fencing. Rail fence is also very good, for which species of fence he preferred the locust, and thought that, liable as it is to attacks from the borer, it was better than cedar. The locust tree he thought improved the land, and it was easily raised. The seed could be readily procured, but should be scalded before sowing. Posts for rail fences should be thoroughly seasoned, and charred.

Mr. Reed said that he had heard that a wire placed over the top of a stone wall would prevent sheep from jumping. The sheep finding an obstruction, would be discouraged. He said that he had made half of a fence with earth, where the soil was of sufficient consistence by throwing up a mound, and put a couple of rails over the top. This could be done



at a little expense. Mr. Reed said that he could not get stone wall laid at anything near the price mentioned by Mr. Buckminster.

Mr. Buckminster stated that he had had ninety rods of wall built, three feet and a half high, at twenty cents a rod.

Mr. Gorham Brooks of Medford, thought a great portion of the wall built by farmers, was too much slighted. The foundations are not generally deep enough. He had never known wall to be laid for less than a dollar, and then it was not laid well. He thought the best mode of building a wall was to lay the small stones in a trench, and the larger on top of them. It would be more durable. In building rail fence, he thought it a bad plan to sharpen the posts. A hole should be dug, and the posts put in without sharpening. Charred posts will last the longest—in some cases, probably, they last seventy-five years. All kinds of fences should be durably made.

Mr. Buckminster stated that the wall which he referred to in his remarks, was a cheap kind of wall—made without trenching. There was some wall of this kind on his farm, which had been built eighty years.

Mr. John Brooks of Princeton, thought a balance wall the best,—say three and a half feet wide at the bottom, and four and a half feet high, which he calculated would cost about seventy-five cents per rod. He had formerly dug a trench 3 feet wide and two and a half feet deep, into which he carted small stones for a foundation, but he had found that this would not do. The stones should be laid in the trench as carefully as in the wall itself. There is one great advantage in trenching, that is, no briars can grow in the wall.

Mr. French of Braintree, expressed the opinion that Mr. Buckminster's wall, three and a half feet high, was short of the lawful height. He was in the habit of digging a trench three or four feet in width, and of sufficient depth to reach the pan. On the sides of this trench, he placed large stones, and filled in with small stones. This makes a good foundation. The earth taken from the trench would serve to fill up the cavities created by the removal of the large stones from the field. In springy lands, the field will be drained by the trenches. Stone wall, he thought, should be four

and a half, or five feet high, as it would settle about six inches. He could not build wall of the kind mentioned for any where near seventy-five cents per rod.

For a hedge fence, the Washington thorn makes a secure fence. The buckthorn makes a beautiful hedge, but both are expensive. The barberry he had understood, made good hedges. He had seen a fine hedge of arbor vitæ. For a rail fence he thought it was a good plan to char the posts, and set them to the depth of two feet and a half in the ground. Mr. French thought it a bad plan to divide the fields into small lots—the fewer enclosures, the better. In answer to an enquiry from Mr. Reed, Mr. French stated that the hedge of Mr. Quincy, which is now more than twenty-five years old, is not perfectly secure.

Mr. Leonard of Marshfield, estimated \$1 per rod as the proper price for building stone wall, which kind of fencing he thought the most valuable when materials are plenty.—He stated that a wall running East and West, would not stand so long as one running North and South, for the reason that the former is more likely to be affected by the frost, which would leave the ground on the South side first, thereby causing the wall to fall on that side.

Mr. Denny, of Westboro, said that a very good wall could be built of small stones, when large ones could not be obtained, by trenching, &c. After building the wall, the top could be covered with sods inverted, which would sometimes prevent boys from climbing over it, through fear of soiling their clothes. A little clover seed might be sown on these sods, which in a wet season, would flourish, and give the wall a beautiful appearance. He thought that rails were not proper for the entrance to a cow-yard, as cattle would be apt to learn to jump in getting over the rails. Gates are the best. For a division wall, Mr. Denny thought three and a half, or four feet sufficiently high: but for a road wall, farmers must conform to the statute law. If practicable it is best for the farmer to have but one enclosure.

Mr. Buckminster inquired how high a wall was required for the road, by the revised statutes. Under the old statutes four feet was the lawful height.

The President stated that he was aware of no alteration in the statute. [SEL.

## POETRY.

## Famine in Scotland.

There's weeping 'mid the lonely sea,  
Where the rude Hebrides lie,  
And where the misty Highlands point  
Their foreheads to the sky.

The oats were blighted on the stalk—  
The corn before its bloom—  
And many a hand that held the plough  
Is pulseless in the tomb!

There is no playing in the streets—  
The haggard children move  
Like mournful phantoms mute and slow,  
Uncheered by hope or love.

No dog upon his master fawns—  
No sheep the hillocks throng—  
Not even the playmate kitten sports  
The sad-eyed babes among—

No more the cock his clarion sounds,  
Nor brooding wing is spread,  
There is no food in barn or stall,  
And all are with the dead!

From the young maiden's hollow cheek  
The ruddy blush is gone—  
The peasant like a statue stands,  
And hardens into stone—

The shuttle sleepeth in the loom  
The crook upon the walls—  
And from the languid mother's hand  
The long used distaff falls.

She hears her children ask for bread,  
And what can she bestow?  
She sees their uncomplaining sire  
A mournful shadow grow.

Oh, Scotia!—sister! if thy woes  
Awake no pitying care,  
If long at banquet board we sit,  
Nor heed thy deep despair—

While thou art pining into death,  
Amid thy heather brown—  
Will not the Giver of our joys  
Upon our luxuries frown?

And blast the blossom of our pride,  
And ban the rusted gold?  
And turn the morsel into gall  
That we from thee withhold? L. H. S.

WRITE IT IN GOLD.—'The great comprehensive truths,' says President Quincy, 'written in letters of living light upon every page of our history are these: Human happiness has no perfect security but freedom; freedom, none but virtue; virtue, none but knowledge; and neither freedom nor virtue, nor knowledge, has any vigor or immortal

hope, except in the principles of the Christian faith, and in the sanctions of the Christian religion.

Mystery magnifies danger, as the fog the sun: The hand that unnerved Belshazzer derived its most horrifying influence from the want of a 'body'; and death is not formidable in what we know of it, but in what we do not.—LACON.

## ENIGMA.—No. 39.

I am composed of 22 letters.

My 5, 1, 19, 21, 8, 4, 12, was a Roman Consul.

My 20, 19, 9, 14, was a celebrated Architect.

My 13, 2, 9, 21, 12, was a famous robber.

My 17, 15, 11, 5, was one of the Gods of the Egyptians.

My 1, 18, 16, 17, was one of the Muses.

My 7, 8, 11, 9, 22, was a son of Jupiter.

My 15, 2, 6, 10, 7, was a town of Thessaly.

My 9, 2, 20, 21, 12, 3, 11, 5, was a Grecian Historian.

My 2, 15, 19, 21, 12, was a river of Etruria.

My 6, 7, 8, 13, 3, 2, was the wife of Regulus.

My 12, 10, 1, 19, 20, 3, was an ancient nation of Sicily.

My 19, 18, 7, 18, 2, was the Goddess of war.

My 3, 17, 20, was a tragic Poet.

My 6, 10, 20, 14, 5, was a king of Crete.

My whole was a celebrated Roman exile whose filial love triumphed over his revenge.

MARTIN F. TUTTILER.

*Solution of Enigma No. 38, Vol. III. p. 208.*  
Milton, Riail, Sherman, Clinton, Anne, Lee, Innocent, Nelson, Leo, Eaton, Ezra, Hale, Esther, Nero, Thomas, Zeno.—Mrs. Caroline Lee Hentz. MARTIN F. TUTTILER.  
*Seven Islands, Va.*

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